

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 TRSE-00 IO-10 AID-05 /083 W

----- 053998

R 171000Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1531

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1360

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XF CY PFOR

SUBJ: ESTABLISHMENT OF PLO OFFICE IN CYPRUS

REF: NICOSIA 1194

1. FOR THE RECORD, I HAVE REGISTERED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHRISTOPHIDES A MILD COMPLAINT OVER GOC'S RECENT DECISION TO PERMIT THE OPENING OF A PLO OFFICE IN NICOSIA. I POINTED OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ADDING ANOTHER TERRORIST DIMENSION TO AN ALREADY TENSE ISLAND AND THE BOOST THAHPLO PROPAGANDA WILL CERTAINLY GIVE TO PREVAILING ANTI-AMERICANISM.

2. CHRISTOPHIDES WAS SOMEWHAT APOLOGETIC AND DEFENSIVE, NOT SURPRISINGLY SINCE I KNOW HE WAS PERSONALLY OPPOSED TO MAKARIOS' DECISION. HE ATTRIBUTED GOC'S AGREEMENT TO FIVE FACTORS: (A) PROLONGED MANEUVERING BY ARCHBISHOP'S PERSONAL PHYSICIAN AND LEFT-WING LEADER DR. LYSSARIDES; (B) ARCHBISHOP'S BELIEF THAT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES GOC NEEDS TO REINFORCE ITS ARAB RELATIONS; (C) PARALLEL BETWEEN CYPRUS AND PALESTINIAN REFUGEE
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PROBLEMS; (D) DELIBERATELY PREMATURE PUBLICATION IN CAIRO PRESS

OF REPORT THAT PLO MISSION EXPECTED ITS VISIT TO RESULT IN
OPENING OF A NICOSIA OFFICE; AND (E) REPORTS OF UNCERTAIN RELIA-
BILITY THAT TURKEY WAS CONSIDERING A PREEMPTIVE MOVE OF ITS OWN
TOWARD PLO.

3. WHILE CHRISTOPHIDES ASSURED ME GOC WOULD KEEP A CLOSE
WATCH ON PLO ACTIVITIES, ITS CAPABILITIES ARE LIMITED.
CRAWFORD

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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